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Comment:

The Iowa Association of Business and Industry is the largest , statewide business organization in Iowa. We have over 1,500 member companies located in all 99 counties. Our Environment Committee routinely addresses permitting issues arising under the Iowa State Implementation Plan and the federal Clean Air Act. A key focus for air permitting is avoiding the delays associated with the permitting process, which prevent the rapid expansion of business necessary to maintain a competitive advantage in today's markets.

One approach to allowing capital projects to quickly proceed at manufacturing facilities is obtaining a plant-wide applicability limit (PAL) permit. ABI appreciates the flexibility expressed in the draft guidance along with the clarifications on how the PAL cap is addressed at renewal and, if necessary, how PAL "limits" are distributed in the event a PAL is terminated.

One area of further clarification is requested to address concerns of our members in obtaining a PAL. That is, the integration (or lack thereof) of the state's minor source construction permit program with the PAL. States that require minor source permitting for PAL facilities defeat the goal of avoiding permitting related delays. By not integrating the minor source with the PAL approach, the full potential of a PAL permit is unrealized and often times not pursued by interested facilities.

To facilitate the use of PALs by business, ABI supports broadening the guidance to promote state integration of the PAL and minor source permitting programs. An example ABI is evaluating is the approach taken by the state of Wisconsin, where an exemption from minor source permitting is provided in the state's minor source State Implementation Plan. See Wis. Admin. Code § NR 406.04(1f). We understand Wisconsin is in the process of finalizing a rule change to NR 406.04(1f) to make its exemption even more flexible by removing the need for minor source construction permitting for new sources brought into the PAL.

Encouraging states, such as Iowa, to integrate the minor source permitting with the PAL so as to reduce or eliminate the need for a minor source construction permit will significantly enhance the attractiveness of obtaining a PAL permit and allow facilities to obtain the full advantage of the PAL approach.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments and look forward to a final guidance that promotes the use of PALs by clarifying for businesses and states the flexibility of the PAL program.

Respectfully,

Brad Hartkopf, ABI, Director of Public Policy